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114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 383

[Report No. 114-207]

To provide for Indian trust asset management reform, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 5, 2015

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

FEBRUARY 8, 2016

Reported by Mr. BARRASSO, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To provide for Indian trust asset management reform, and
for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Indian Trust Asset Reform Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
2 this Act is as follows:

See. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—RECOGNITION OF TRUST RESPONSIBILITY

See. 101. Findings.

See. 102. Reaffirmation of policy.

**TITLE II—INDIAN TRUST ASSET MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT**

See. 201. Short title.

See. 202. Definitions.

See. 203. Establishment of demonstration project; selection of participating Indian tribes.

See. 204. Indian trust asset management plan.

See. 205. Effect of title.

**TITLE III—RESTRUCTURING THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL
TRUSTEE**

See. 301. Purpose.

See. 302. Definitions.

See. 303. Under Secretary for Indian Affairs.

See. 304. Office of Special Trustee for American Indians.

See. 305. Appraisals and valuations.

See. 306. Cost savings.

3 **TITLE I—RECOGNITION OF
TRUST RESPONSIBILITY**

4 **SEC. 101. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress, after careful review of the historical and
7 special legal relationship of the United States with, and
8 resulting responsibilities to, Indians, finds that—

9 (1) the relationship of Indian tribes to the
10 United States is founded in part on the settled doctrine
11 of the law of nations that when a stronger sovereign
12 assumes authority over a weaker sovereign,
13 the stronger nation assumes a duty of protection for

1 the weaker nation, which does not surrender the
2 right to self-government;

3 (2) the fiduciary responsibilities of the United
4 States to Indians also are founded in part on spe-
5 cific commitments made through written treaties
6 and agreements securing peace; in exchange for
7 which Indians have surrendered claims to vast tracts
8 of land, which provided legal consideration for per-
9 manent, ongoing performance of Federal trust du-
10 ties; and

11 (3) the foregoing historic Federal tribal rela-
12 tions and understandings have benefitted the people
13 of the United States as a whole for centuries and es-
14 tablished enduring and enforceable Federal obliga-
15 tions to which the national honor has been com-
16 mitted.

17 **SEC. 102. REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.**

18 Pursuant to the constitutionally vested authority of
19 Congress over Indian affairs, Congress reaffirms that the
20 fiduciary responsibilities of the United States to Indian
21 tribes include a duty to promote tribal self-determination
22 regarding governmental authority and economic develop-
23 ment.

1 **TITLE II—INDIAN TRUST ASSET
2 MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRA-
3 TION PROJECT**

4 **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This title may be cited as the “Indian Trust Asset
6 Management Demonstration Project Act of 2015”.

7 **SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this title:

9 (1) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian tribe”
10 means an Indian tribe that—

11 (A) is federally recognized; and
12 (B) submits an application under section
13 203(e).

14 (2) **PROJECT.**—The term “Project” means the
15 Indian trust asset management demonstration
16 project established under section 203(a).

17 (3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of the Interior.

19 **SEC. 203. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT;
20 SELECTION OF PARTICIPATING INDIAN
21 TRIBES.**

22 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish and
23 carry out an Indian trust asset management demonstra-
24 tion project, in accordance with this title.

1 (b) SELECTION OF PARTICIPATING INDIAN
2 TRIBES.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe shall be eli-
4 gible to participate in the Project if—

5 (A) the Indian tribe submits to the Sec-
6 retary an application under subsection (e); and
7 (B) the Secretary approves the application
8 of the Indian tribe.

9 (2) NOTICE.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
11 provide a written notice to each Indian tribe ap-
12 proved to participate in the Project.

13 (B) CONTENTS.—A notice under subpara-
14 graph (A) shall include—

15 (i) a statement that the application of
16 the Indian tribe has been approved by the
17 Secretary; and

18 (ii) a requirement that the Indian
19 tribe shall submit to the Secretary a pro-
20 posed Indian trust asset management plan
21 in accordance with section 204.

22 (e) APPLICATION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to participate
24 in the Project, an Indian tribe shall submit to the

1 Secretary a written application in accordance with
2 paragraph (2).

3 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall con-
4 sider an application under this subsection only if the
5 application—

6 (A) includes a copy of a resolution or other
7 appropriate action by the governing body of the
8 Indian tribe, as determined by the Secretary, in
9 support of or authorizing the application;

10 (B) is received by the Secretary after the
11 date of enactment of this Act; and

12 (C) states that the Indian tribe is request-
13 ing to participate in the Project.

14 (d) DURATION.—The Project—

15 (1) shall remain in effect for a period of 10
16 years after the date of enactment of this Act; but

17 (2) may be extended at the discretion of the
18 Secretary.

19 **SEC. 204. INDIAN TRUST ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

20 (a) PROPOSED PLAN.—

21 (1) SUBMISSION.—After the date on which an
22 Indian tribe receives a notice from the Secretary
23 under section 203(b)(2), the Indian tribe shall sub-
24 mit to the Secretary a proposed Indian trust asset
25 management plan in accordance with paragraph (2).

1 (2) CONTENTS.—A proposed Indian trust asset
2 management plan shall include provisions that—

3 (A) identify the trust assets that will be
4 subject to the plan;

5 (B) establish trust asset management ob-
6 jectives and priorities for Indian trust assets
7 that are located within the reservation, or oth-
8 erwise subject to the jurisdiction, of the Indian
9 tribe;

10 (C) allocate trust asset management fund-
11 ing that is available for the Indian trust assets
12 subject to the plan in order to meet the trust
13 asset management objectives and priorities;

14 (D) if the Indian tribe has contracted or
15 compacted functions or activities under the In-
16 dian Self-Determination and Education Assist-
17 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) relating to the
18 management of trust assets—

19 (i) identify the functions or activities
20 that are being performed by the Indian
21 tribe under the contracts or compacts; and

22 (ii) describe the practices and proce-
23 dures that the Indian tribe will follow;

24 (E) establish procedures for nonbinding
25 mediation or resolution of any dispute between

1 the Indian tribe and the United States relating
2 to the trust asset management plan;

3 (F) include a process for the Indian tribe
4 and the Federal agencies affected by the trust
5 asset management plan to conduct evaluations
6 to ensure that trust assets are being managed
7 in accordance with the plan; and

8 (G) identify any Federal regulations that
9 will be superseded by the plan.

10 (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION.—On receipt of a written request from an Indian tribe, the Secretary shall provide to the Indian tribe any technical assistance and information, including budgetary information, that the Indian tribe determines to be necessary for preparation of a proposed plan.

17 (b) APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF PROPOSED
18 PLANS.—

19 (1) APPROVAL.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120
21 days after the date on which an Indian tribe
22 submits a proposed Indian trust asset manage-
23 ment plan under subsection (a), the Secretary
24 shall approve or disapprove the proposed plan.

1 (B) REQUIREMENTS FOR DISAPPROVAL.—

2 The Secretary shall approve a proposed plan
3 unless the Secretary determines that—

4 (i) the proposed plan fails to address
5 a requirement under subsection (a)(2);

6 (ii) the proposed plan includes 1 or
7 more provisions that are inconsistent with
8 subsection (e); or

9 (iii) the cost of implementing the pro-
10 posed plan exceeds the amount of funding
11 available for the management of trust as-
12 sets that would be subject to the proposed
13 plan.

14 (2) ACTION ON DISAPPROVAL.—

15 (A) NOTICE.—If the Secretary disapproves
16 a proposed plan under paragraph (1)(B), the
17 Secretary shall provide to the Indian tribe a
18 written notice of the disapproval, including any
19 reason why the proposed plan was disapproved.

20 (B) ACTION BY TRIBES.—If a proposed
21 plan is disapproved under paragraph (1)(B),
22 the Indian tribe may resubmit an amended pro-
23 posed plan by not later than 90 days after the
24 date on which the Indian tribe receives the no-
25 tice under subparagraph (A).

1 (3) FAILURE TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE.—If
2 the Secretary fails to approve or disapprove a pro-
3 posed plan in accordance with paragraph (1), the
4 plan shall be considered to be approved.

5 (4) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—An Indian tribe may
6 seek judicial review of a determination of the See-
7 retary under this subsection in accordance with sub-
8 chapter H of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5,
9 United States Code (commonly known as the “Ad-
10 ministrative Procedure Act”), if—

11 (A) the Secretary disapproves the proposed
12 plan of the Indian tribe under paragraph (1);
13 and

14 (B) the Indian tribe has exhausted all
15 other administrative remedies available to the
16 Indian tribe.

17 (e) APPLICABLE LAWS; STANDARDS; TRUST RE-
18 SPONSIBILITY.—

19 (1) APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.—Except as pro-
20 vided in subsection (e), an Indian trust asset man-
21 agement plan, and any activity carried out under the
22 plan, shall not be approved unless the proposed plan
23 is consistent with all treaties, statutes, Executive or-
24 ders, and court decisions that are applicable to the

1 trust assets, or the management of the trust assets,
2 identified in the plan.

3 (2) STANDARDS.—Subject to the treaties, stat-
4 ues, Executive orders, and court decisions referred
5 to in paragraph (1), an Indian trust asset manage-
6 ment plan shall not be approved unless the Secretary
7 determines that the plan will—

8 (A) conform, to the maximum extent practi-
9 cieable, to the preferred use of each applicable
10 trust asset by the beneficial owner, unless the
11 use is inconsistent with a provision referred to
12 in paragraph (1); and

13 (B) protect any applicable treaty-based
14 fishing, hunting and gathering, and similar
15 rights relating to the use, access, or enjoyment
16 of a trust asset.

17 (d) TERMINATION OF PLAN.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe may termi-
19 nate an Indian trust asset management plan on any
20 date after the date on which a proposed Indian trust
21 asset management plan is approved by providing to
22 the Secretary—

23 (A) a notice of the intent of the Indian
24 tribe to terminate the plan; and

1 (B) a resolution of the governing body of
2 the Indian tribe authorizing the termination of
3 the plan.

4 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—A termination of an In-
5 dian trust asset management plan under paragraph
6 (1) takes effect on October 1 of the first fiscal year
7 following the date on which a notice is provided to
8 the Secretary under paragraph (1)(A).

9 (e) APPROVAL OF CERTAIN AGREEMENTS BY INDIAN
10 TRIBE.—

11 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

12 (A) FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT ACTIV-
13 ITY.—The term “forest land management activ-
14 ity” means any activity described in section
15 304(4) of the National Indian Forest Resources
16 Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103(4)).

17 (B) INTERESTED PARTY.—The term “in-
18 terested party” means an Indian or non-Indian
19 individual, entity, or government the interests
20 of which could be adversely affected by a tribal
21 trust land leasing decision made by an applica-
22 ble Indian tribe.

23 (C) SURFACE LEASING TRANSACTION.—
24 The term “surface leasing transaction” means
25 a residential, business, agricultural, or wind or

1 solar resource lease of land the title to which is
2 held—

3 (i) in trust by the United States for
4 the benefit of an Indian tribe; or
5 (ii) in fee by an Indian tribe, subject
6 to restrictions against alienation under
7 Federal law.

8 (2) APPROVAL BY SECRETARY.—Notwith-
9 standing subsection (e)(1), the Secretary may ap-
10 prove an Indian trust asset management plan that
11 includes a provision authorizing the Indian tribe to
12 enter into, approve, and carry out a surface leasing
13 transaction or forest land management activity with-
14 out approval of the Secretary, regardless of whether
15 the surface leasing transaction or forest land man-
16 agement activity would require such an approval
17 under otherwise applicable law (including regula-
18 tions), if—

19 (A) the resolution or other action of the
20 governing body of the Indian tribe referred to
21 in section 203(e)(2)(A) expressly authorizes the
22 inclusion of the provision in the Indian trust
23 asset management plan; and

1 (B) the Indian tribe has adopted regulations
2 expressly incorporated by reference into
3 the Indian trust asset management plan that—

4 (i) with respect to a surface leasing
5 transaction—

6 (I) have been approved by the
7 Secretary pursuant to subsection
8 (h)(4) of the first section of the Act of
9 August 9, 1955 (25 U.S.C.
10 415(h)(4)); or

11 (II) have not yet been approved
12 by the Secretary in accordance with
13 subclause (I), but that the Secretary
14 determines at or prior to the time of
15 approval under this paragraph meet
16 the requirements of subsection (h)(3)
17 of the first section of that Act (25
18 U.S.C. 415(h)(3)); or

19 (ii) with respect to forest land man-
20 agement activities, the Secretary deter-
21 mines—

22 (I) are consistent with the regu-
23 lations of the Secretary adopted under
24 the National Indian Forest Resources

1 Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3101 et
2 seq.); and

3 (II) provide for an environmental
4 review process that includes—

5 (aa) the identification and
6 evaluation of any significant ef-
7 fects of the proposed action on
8 the environment; and

9 (bb) a process for ensuring
10 that—

11 (AA) the public is in-
12 formed of, and has a reason-
13 able opportunity to comment
14 on, any significant environ-
15 mental impacts of the pro-
16 posed timber resource trans-
17 action identified by the In-
18 dian tribe; and

19 (BB) the Indian tribe
20 provides responses to rel-
21 evant and substantive public
22 comments on any such im-
23 pacts before the Indian tribe
24 approves the timber resource
25 transaction.

1 (3) TYPES OF TRANSACTIONS.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the
3 Indian tribe, an Indian trust asset management
4 plan may authorize the Indian tribe to carry
5 out a surface leasing transaction, a forest land
6 management activity, or both.

7 (B) SELECTION OF SPECIFIC TRANS-
8 ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES.—At the discretion of
9 the Indian tribe, the Indian tribe may include
10 in the integrated resource management plan
11 any 1 or more of the transactions and activities
12 authorized to be included in the plan under sub-
13 paragraph (A).

14 (4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
16 provide technical assistance, on request of an
17 Indian tribe, for development of a regulatory
18 environmental review process required under
19 paragraph (2)(B)(ii)(II).

20 (B) INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND
21 EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT.—The technical
22 assistance to be provided by the Secretary pur-
23 suant to subparagraph (A) may be made avail-
24 able through contracts, grants, or agreements
25 entered into in accordance with, and made

1 available to entities eligible for, contracts,
2 grants, or agreements under the Indian Self-
3 Determination and Education Assistance Act
4 (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).

5 (5) FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—Not-
6 withstanding paragraph (2), if an Indian tribe car-
7 ries out a project or activity funded by a Federal
8 agency, the Indian tribe shall have the authority to
9 rely on the environmental review process of the ap-
10 plicable Federal agency, rather than any tribal envi-
11 ronmental review process under this subsection.

12 (6) DOCUMENTATION.—If an Indian tribe exe-
13 cutes a surface leasing transaction or timber re-
14 sourcee transaction pursuant to tribal regulations
15 under paragraph (2), the Indian tribe shall provide
16 to the Secretary—

17 (A) a copy of the surface leasing trans-
18 action or timber resourcee transaction docu-
19 ments, including any amendments to, or renew-
20 als of, the applicable transaction; and

21 (B) in the case of tribal regulations, a sur-
22 face leasing transaction, or forest land manage-
23 ment activities that allow payments to be made
24 directly to the Indian tribe, documentation of
25 the payments that is sufficient to enable the

1 Secretary to discharge the trust responsibility
2 of the United States under paragraph (7).

3 **(7) TRUST RESPONSIBILITY.—**

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The United States
5 shall not be liable for losses sustained by any
6 party to a lease executed pursuant to tribal reg-
7 ulations under paragraph (2).

8 (B) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—Pursu-
9 ant to the authority of the Secretary to fulfill
10 the trust obligation of the United States to In-
11 dian tribes under Federal law (including regula-
12 tions), the Secretary may, on reasonable notice
13 from the applicable Indian tribe and at the dis-
14 cretion of the Secretary, enforce the provisions
15 of, or cancel, any lease executed by the Indian
16 tribe under paragraph (2).

17 **(8) COMPLIANCE.—**

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—An interested party,
19 after exhausting any applicable tribal remedies,
20 may submit to the Secretary a petition, at such
21 time and in such form as the Secretary deter-
22 mines to be appropriate, to review the compli-
23 ance of an applicable Indian tribe with any trib-
24 al regulations approved by the Secretary under
25 this subsection.

1 (B) VIOLATIONS.—If the Secretary deter-
2 mines under subparagraph (A) that a violation
3 of tribal regulations has occurred, the Secretary
4 may take any action the Secretary determines
5 to be necessary to remedy the violation, includ-
6 ing rescinding the approval of the tribal regula-
7 tions and reassuming responsibility for the ap-
8 proval of leases of tribal trust land.

9 (C) DOCUMENTATION.—If the Secretary
10 determines under subparagraph (A) that a vi-
11 olation of tribal regulations has occurred and a
12 remedy is necessary, the Secretary shall—

13 (i) make a written determination with
14 respect to the regulations that have been
15 violated;

16 (ii) provide to the applicable Indian
17 tribe a written notice of the alleged viola-
18 tion, together with the written determina-
19 tion; and

20 (iii) prior to the exercise of any rem-
21 edy, the rescission of the approval of the
22 regulation involved, or the reassumption of
23 the trust asset transaction approval re-
24 sponsibilities, provide to the applicable In-
25 dian tribe—

1 (I) a hearing on the record; and
2 (II) a reasonable opportunity to
3 cure the alleged violation.

4 **SEC. 205. EFFECT OF TITLE.**

5 (a) **LIABILITY.**—Subject to subsection (b), nothing in
6 this title or a trust asset management plan approved
7 under section 204 shall independently diminish, increase,
8 create, or otherwise affect the liability of the United States
9 or an Indian tribe participating in the Project for any loss
10 resulting from the management of an Indian trust asset
11 under an Indian trust asset management plan.

12 (b) **DEVIATION FROM STANDARD PRACTICES.**—The
13 United States shall not be liable to any party (including
14 any Indian tribe) for any term of, or any loss resulting
15 from the terms of, an Indian trust asset management plan
16 that provides for management of a trust asset at a less-
17 stringent standard than the Secretary would otherwise re-
18 quire or adhere to in absence of an Indian trust asset
19 management plan.

20 (c) **EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.**—Except with respect
21 to any regulation superseded by a trust asset management
22 plan approved under section 204(b), or any tribal regula-
23 tion included or incorporated by reference in such a plan
24 under section 204(e), nothing in this title amends or oth-
25 erwise affects the application of any treaty, statute, regu-

1 lation, Executive order, or court decision that is applicable
2 to Indian trust assets or the management or administra-
3 tion of Indian trust assets.

4 (d) TRUST RESPONSIBILITY.—Nothing in this title
5 enhances, diminishes, or otherwise affects the trust re-
6 sponsibility of the United States to Indian tribes or indi-
7 vidual Indians.

8 **TITLE III—RESTRUCTURING THE
9 OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL
10 TRUSTEE**

11 **SEC. 301. PURPOSE.**

12 The purpose of this title is to ensure a more efficient
13 and accountable administration of duties of the Secretary
14 of the Interior with respect to providing services and pro-
15 grams to Indians and Indian tribes, including the manage-
16 ment of Indian trust resources.

17 **SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this title:

19 (1) BIA.—The term “BIA” means the Bureau
20 of Indian Affairs.

21 (2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
22 means the Department of the Interior.

23 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
24 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 (4) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under
2 Secretary” means the individual appointed to the po-
3 sition of Under Secretary for Indian Affairs estab-
4 lished under section 303(a).

5 **SEC. 303. UNDER SECRETARY FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION.—Notwith-
7 standing any other provision of law, the Secretary may
8 establish in the Department the position of Under Sec-
9 retary for Indian Affairs, who shall report directly to the
10 Secretary.

11 (b) APPOINTMENT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
13 graph (2), the Under Secretary shall be appointed
14 by the President, by and with the advice and consent
15 of the Senate.

16 (2) EXCEPTION.—The individual serving as the
17 Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs on the date of
18 enactment of this Act may assume the position of
19 Under Secretary without appointment under para-
20 graph (1), if—

21 (A) that individual was appointed as As-
22 sistant Secretary for Indian Affairs by the
23 President, by and with the advice and consent
24 of the Senate; and

1 (B) not later than 180 days after the date
2 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary ap-
3 proves the assumption.

4 (e) DUTIES.—In addition to any other duties directed
5 by the Secretary, the Under Secretary shall—

6 (1) coordinate with the Special Trustee for
7 American Indians to ensure an orderly transition of
8 the functions of the Special Trustee to the BIA, or
9 to any other agency or bureau within the Depart-
10 ment;

11 (2) to the maximum extent practicable, super-
12 vise and coordinate activities and policies of the BIA
13 with activities and policies of—

14 (A) the Bureau of Reclamation;

15 (B) the Bureau of Land Management;

16 (C) the Office of Natural Resources Rev-
17 enue;

18 (D) the National Park Service; and

19 (E) the United States Fish and Wildlife
20 Service; and

21 (3) provide for regular consultation with Indi-
22 ans and Indian tribes that own interests in trust re-
23 sources and trust fund accounts.

24 (d) PERSONNEL PROVISIONS.—

1 (1) APPOINTMENTS.—The Under Secretary
2 may appoint and fix the compensation of such offi-
3 eers and employees as the Under Seeretary deter-
4 mines to be necessary to carry out any function
5 transferred under this section.

6 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Except as otherwise pro-
7 vided by law—

8 (A) any officer or employee described in
9 paragraph (1) shall be appointed in accordance
10 with the civil service laws;

11 (B) the compensation of such an officer or
12 employee shall be fixed in accordance with title
13 5, United States Code; and

14 (C) in appointing or otherwise hiring any
15 employee, the Under Seeretary shall give pref-
16 erence to Indians in accordance with section 12
17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 472).

18 **SEC. 304. OFFICE OF SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN IN-**

19 **DIANS.**

20 (a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Notwithstanding sec-
21 tions 302 and 303 of the American Indian Trust Fund
22 Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4042, 4043),
23 not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this
24 Act, the Secretary shall prepare and, after consultation
25 with Indian tribes and appropriate Indian organizations,

1 submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the
2 House of Representatives, the Committee on Indian Af-
3 fairs of the Senate, and the Committees on Appropriations
4 of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report
5 that includes—

6 (1) an identification of all functions, other than
7 the collection, management, and investment of In-
8 dian trust funds, that the Office of the Special
9 Trustee performs independently or in concert with
10 the BIA or other Federal agencies, specifically those
11 functions that affect or relate to management of
12 nonmonetary trust resources;

13 (2) a description of any functions of the Office
14 of the Special Trustee that will be transitioned to
15 the BIA or other bureaus or agencies within the De-
16 partment, together with the timeframes for those
17 transfers; and

18 (3) a transition plan and timetable for the ter-
19 mination of the Office of the Special Trustee, to
20 occur not later than 2 years after the date of sub-
21 mission of the report.

22 (b) FIDUCIARY TRUST OFFICERS.—Subject to appli-
23 cable law and regulations, the Secretary, at the request
24 of an Indian tribe or consortia of Indian tribes, shall in-
25 clude fiduciary trust officers in a contract, compact, or

1 cooperative agreement under the Indian Self-Determina-
2 tion and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et
3 seq.).

4 **SEC. 305. APPRAISALS AND VALUATIONS.**

5 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after
6 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in con-
7 sultation with Indian tribes and tribal organizations, shall
8 ensure that appraisals and valuations of Indian trust
9 property are administered by a single bureau, agency, or
10 other administrative entity within the Department.

11 (b) **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS.**—Not later than 1
12 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
13 shall establish and publish in the Federal Register min-
14 imum qualifications for individuals to prepare appraisals
15 and valuations of Indian trust property.

16 (c) **SECRETARIAL APPROVAL.**—In any case in which
17 an Indian tribe or Indian beneficiary submits to the See-
18 retary an appraisal or valuation that satisfies the min-
19 imum qualifications described in subsection (b), and that
20 submission acknowledges the intent of the Indian tribe or
21 beneficiary to have the appraisal or valuation considered
22 under this section, the appraisal or valuation—

23 (1) shall not require any additional review or
24 approval by the Secretary; and

1 (2) shall be considered to be final for purposes
2 of effectuating the transaction for which the ap-
3 praisal or valuation is required.

4 **SEC. 306. COST SAVINGS.**

5 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, for any program, function,
7 service, or activity (or any portion of a program, function,
8 service, or activity) of the Office of the Special Trustee
9 that will not be operated or carried out as a result of a
10 transfer of functions and personnel under this title, the
11 Secretary shall—

12 (1) identify the amounts that the Secretary
13 would otherwise have expended to operate or carry
14 out each program, function, service, and activity (or
15 portion of a program, function, service, or activity);
16 and

17 (2) provide to the tribal representatives of the
18 Tribal/Interior Budget Council or the representative
19 of any other appropriate entity that advises the Sec-
20 retary on Indian program budget or funding issues
21 a list that describes—

22 (A) the programs, functions, services, and
23 activities (or any portion of a program, func-
24 tion, service, or activity) identified under para-
25 graph (1); and

1 (B) the amounts associated with each pro-
2 gram, function, service, and activity (or portion
3 of a program, function, service, or activity).

4 (b) TRIBAL RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 90
5 days after the date of receipt of a list under subsection
6 (a)(2), the tribal representatives of the Tribal/Interior
7 Budget Council and the representatives of any other ap-
8 propriate entities that advise the Secretary on Indian pro-
9 gram budget or funding issues may provide recommenda-
10 tions regarding how any amounts or cost savings should
11 be reallocated, incorporated into future budget requests,
12 or appropriated to—

13 (1) the Secretary;
14 (2) the Office of Management and Budget;
15 (3) the Committee on Appropriations of the
16 House of Representatives;
17 (4) the Committee on Natural Resources of the
18 House of Representatives;
19 (5) the Committee on Appropriations of the
20 Senate; and
21 (6) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Sen-
22 ate.

23 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

24 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “In-
25 dian Trust Asset Reform Act”.

1 (b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for
 2 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. *Short title; table of contents.*

TITLE I—RECOGNITION OF TRUST RESPONSIBILITY

Sec. 101. *Findings.*

Sec. 102. *Reaffirmation of policy.*

**TITLE II—INDIAN TRUST ASSET MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT**

Sec. 201. *Short title.*

Sec. 202. *Definitions.*

Sec. 203. *Establishment of demonstration project; selection of participating Indian tribes.*

Sec. 204. *Indian trust asset management plan.*

Sec. 205. *Forest land management and surface leasing activities.*

Sec. 206. *Effect of title.*

**TITLE III—IMPROVING EFFICIENCY AND STREAMLINING
PROCESSES**

Sec. 301. *Purpose.*

Sec. 302. *Definitions.*

Sec. 303. *Under Secretary for Indian Affairs.*

Sec. 304. *Office of Special Trustee for American Indians.*

Sec. 305. *Appraisals and valuations.*

Sec. 306. *Cost savings.*

**3 **TITLE I—RECOGNITION OF
4 **TRUST RESPONSIBILITY******

5 **SEC. 101. FINDINGS.**

6 *Congress finds that—*

7 *(1) there exists a unique relationship between the
8 Government of the United States and the governments
9 of Indian tribes;*

10 *(2) there exists a unique Federal responsibility
11 to Indians;*

12 *(3) through treaties, statutes, and historical relations with Indian tribes, the United States has under-*

1 *taken a unique trust responsibility to protect and
2 support Indian tribes and Indians;*

3 *(4) the fiduciary responsibilities of the United
4 States to Indians also are founded in part on specific
5 commitments made through written treaties and
6 agreements securing peace, in exchange for which Indians
7 have surrendered claims to vast tracts of land,
8 which provided legal consideration for permanent, on-
9 going performance of Federal trust duties; and*

10 *(5) the foregoing historic Federal-tribal relations
11 and understandings have benefitted the people of the
12 United States as a whole for centuries and have estab-
13 lished enduring and enforceable Federal obligations to
14 which the national honor has been committed.*

15 **SEC. 102. REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.**

16 *Pursuant to the constitutionally vested authority of
17 Congress over Indian affairs, Congress reaffirms that the
18 fiduciary responsibilities of the United States to Indian
19 tribes include a duty to promote tribal self-determination
20 regarding governmental authority and economic develop-
21 ment.*

1 **TITLE II—INDIAN TRUST ASSET
2 MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRA-
3 TION PROJECT**

4 **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

5 *This title may be cited as the “Indian Trust Asset
6 Management Demonstration Project Act of 2015”.*

7 **SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.**

8 *In this title:*

9 (1) *INDIAN TRIBE.*—“Indian tribe” has the
10 meaning given the term in the Indian Self-Deter-
11 mination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.
12 450b).

13 (2) *PROJECT.*—The term “Project” means the
14 Indian trust asset management demonstration project
15 established under section 203(a).

16 (3) *SECRETARY.*—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of the Interior.

18 **SEC. 203. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT;
19 SELECTION OF PARTICIPATING INDIAN
20 TRIBES.**

21 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall establish and
22 carry out an Indian trust asset management demonstration
23 project, in accordance with this title.

24 (b) *SELECTION OF PARTICIPATING INDIAN TRIBES.*—

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—An Indian tribe shall be eligi-
2 ble to participate in the Project if—

3 (A) the Indian tribe submits to the Sec-
4 retary an application under subsection (c); and
5 (B) the Secretary approves the application
6 of the Indian tribe.

7 (2) *NOTICE.*—

8 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall pro-
9 vide a written notice to each Indian tribe ap-
10 proved to participate in the Project.

11 (B) *CONTENTS.*—A notice under subpara-
12 graph (A) shall include—

13 (i) a statement that the application of
14 the Indian tribe has been approved by the
15 Secretary; and

16 (ii) a requirement that the Indian
17 tribe shall submit to the Secretary a pro-
18 posed Indian trust asset management plan
19 in accordance with section 204.

20 (c) *APPLICATION.*—

21 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—To be eligible to participate
22 in the Project, an Indian tribe shall submit to the
23 Secretary a written application in accordance with
24 paragraph (2).

1 (2) *REQUIREMENTS.*—The Secretary shall con-
2 sider an application under this subsection only if the
3 application—

4 (A) includes a copy of a resolution or other
5 appropriate action by the governing body of the
6 Indian tribe, as determined by the Secretary, in
7 support of or authorizing the application;

8 (B) is received by the Secretary after the
9 date of enactment of this Act; and

10 (C) states that the Indian tribe is requesting
11 to participate in the Project.

12 (d) *DURATION.*—The Project—

13 (1) shall remain in effect for a period of 10 years
14 after the date of enactment of this Act; but

15 (2) may be extended at the discretion of the Sec-
16 retary.

17 **SEC. 204. INDIAN TRUST ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

18 (a) *PROPOSED PLAN.*—

19 (1) *SUBMISSION.*—After the date on which an
20 Indian tribe receives a notice from the Secretary
21 under section 203(b)(2), the Indian tribe shall submit
22 to the Secretary a proposed Indian trust asset man-
23 agement plan in accordance with paragraph (2).

24 (2) *CONTENTS.*—A proposed Indian trust asset
25 management plan shall include provisions that—

1 (A) identify the trust assets that will be sub-
2 ject to the plan;

3 (B) establish trust asset management objec-
4 tives and priorities for Indian trust assets that
5 are located within the reservation, or otherwise
6 subject to the jurisdiction, of the Indian tribe;

7 (C) allocate trust asset management funding
8 that is available for the Indian trust assets sub-
9 ject to the plan in order to meet the trust asset
10 management objectives and priorities;

11 (D) if the Indian tribe has contracted or
12 compacted functions or activities under the In-
13 dian Self-Determination and Education Assist-
14 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) relating to the
15 management of trust assets—

16 (i) identify the functions or activities
17 that are being or will be performed by the
18 Indian tribe under the contracts, compacts,
19 or other agreements under that Act, which
20 may include any of the surface leasing or
21 forest land management activities author-
22 ized by the proposed plan pursuant to sec-
23 tion 205(b); and

24 (ii) describe the practices and proce-
25 dures that the Indian tribe will follow;

1 (E) establish procedures for nonbinding me-
2 diation or resolution of any dispute between the
3 Indian tribe and the United States relating to
4 the trust asset management plan;

5 (F) include a process for the Indian tribe
6 and the Federal agencies affected by the trust
7 asset management plan to conduct evaluations to
8 ensure that trust assets are being managed in ac-
9 cordance with the plan; and

10 (G) identify any Federal regulations that
11 will be superseded by the plan.

12 (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION.—On receipt of a written request from an Indian tribe, the Secretary shall provide to the Indian tribe any technical assistance and information, including budgetary information, that the Indian tribe determines to be necessary for preparation of a proposed plan.

19 (b) APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF PROPOSED
20 PLANS.—

21 (1) APPROVAL.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
23 after the date on which an Indian tribe submits
24 a proposed Indian trust asset management plan

1 *under subsection (a), the Secretary shall approve*
2 *or disapprove the proposed plan.*

3 (B) REQUIREMENTS FOR DISAPPROVAL.—

4 *The Secretary shall approve a proposed plan un-*
5 *less the Secretary determines that—*

6 (i) *the proposed plan fails to address a*
7 *requirement under subsection (a)(2);*

8 (ii) *the proposed plan includes 1 or*
9 *more provisions that are inconsistent with*
10 *subsection (c); or*

11 (iii) *the cost of implementing the pro-*
12 *posed plan exceeds the amount of funding*
13 *available for the management of trust assets*
14 *that would be subject to the proposed plan.*

15 (2) ACTION ON DISAPPROVAL.—

16 (A) NOTICE.—*If the Secretary disapproves*
17 *a proposed plan under paragraph (1)(B), the*
18 *Secretary shall provide to the Indian tribe a*
19 *written notice of the disapproval, including any*
20 *reason why the proposed plan was disapproved.*

21 (B) ACTION BY TRIBES.—*If a proposed plan*
22 *is disapproved under paragraph (1)(B), the In-*
23 *dian tribe may resubmit an amended proposed*
24 *plan by not later than 90 days after the date on*

1 *which the Indian tribe receives the notice under*
2 *subparagraph (A).*

3 *(3) FAILURE TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE.—If*
4 *the Secretary fails to approve or disapprove a pro-*
5 *posed plan in accordance with paragraph (1), the*
6 *plan shall be considered to be approved.*

7 *(4) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—An Indian tribe may*
8 *seek judicial review of a determination of the Sec-*
9 *retary under this subsection in accordance with sub-*
10 *chapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5,*
11 *United States Code (commonly known as the “Admin-*
12 *istrative Procedure Act”), if—*

13 *(A) the Secretary disapproves the proposed*
14 *plan of the Indian tribe under paragraph (1);*
15 *and*

16 *(B) the Indian tribe has exhausted all other*
17 *administrative remedies available to the Indian*
18 *tribe.*

19 *(c) APPLICABLE LAWS.—Subject to section 205, an In-*
20 *dian trust asset management plan, and any activity car-*
21 *ried out under the plan, shall not be approved unless the*
22 *proposed plan is consistent with any treaties, statutes, and*
23 *Executive orders that are applicable to the trust assets, or*
24 *the management of the trust assets, identified in the plan.*

25 *(d) TERMINATION OF PLAN.—*

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—An Indian tribe may terminate an Indian trust asset management plan on any date after the date on which a proposed Indian trust asset management plan is approved by providing to the Secretary—

6 (A) a notice of the intent of the Indian tribe
7 to terminate the plan; and

8 (B) a resolution of the governing body of the
9 Indian tribe authorizing the termination of the
10 plan.

11 (2) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—A termination of an Indian trust asset management plan under paragraph
12 (1) takes effect on October 1 of the first fiscal year following the date on which a notice is provided to the Secretary under paragraph (1)(A).

16 **SEC. 205. FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT AND SURFACE LEAS-
17 ING ACTIVITIES.**

18 (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

19 (1) *FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY.*—The
20 term “forest land management activity” means any
21 activity described in section 304(4) of the National
22 Indian Forest Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C.
23 3103(4)).

24 (2) *INTERESTED PARTY.*—The term “interested
25 party” means an Indian or non-Indian individual,

1 entity, or government the interests of which could be
2 adversely affected by a tribal trust land leasing deci-
3 sion made by an applicable Indian tribe.

4 (3) SURFACE LEASING TRANSACTION.—The term
5 “surface leasing transaction” means a residential,
6 business, agricultural, or wind or solar resource lease
7 of land the title to which is held—

8 (A) in trust by the United States for the
9 benefit of an Indian tribe; or

10 (B) in fee by an Indian tribe, subject to re-
11 strictions against alienation under Federal law.

12 (b) APPROVAL BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary may
13 approve an Indian trust asset management plan that in-
14 cludes a provision authorizing the Indian tribe to enter
15 into, approve, and carry out a surface leasing transaction
16 or forest land management activity without approval of the
17 Secretary, regardless of whether the surface leasing trans-
18 action or forest land management activity would require
19 such an approval under otherwise applicable law (including
20 regulations), if—

21 (1) the resolution or other action of the governing
22 body of the Indian tribe referred to in section
23 203(c)(2)(A) expressly authorizes the inclusion of the
24 provision in the Indian trust asset management plan;
25 and

1 (2) the Indian tribe has adopted regulations ex-
2 pressly incorporated by reference into the Indian
3 trust asset management plan that—

4 (A) with respect to a surface leasing trans-
5 action—

6 (i) have been approved by the Sec-
7 retary pursuant to subsection (h)(4) of the
8 first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (25
9 U.S.C. 415(h)(4)); or

10 (ii) have not yet been approved by the
11 Secretary in accordance with clause (i), but
12 that the Secretary determines at or prior to
13 the time of approval under this paragraph
14 meet the requirements of subsection (h)(3) of
15 the first section of that Act (25 U.S.C.
16 415(h)(3)); or

17 (B) with respect to forest land management
18 activities, the Secretary determines—

19 (i) are consistent with the regulations
20 of the Secretary adopted under the National
21 Indian Forest Resources Management Act
22 (25 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.); and

23 (ii) provide for an environmental re-
24 view process that includes—

1 *(I) the identification and evalua-*
2 *tion of any significant effects of the*
3 *proposed action on the environment;*
4 *and*

5 *(II) a process consistent with the*
6 *regulations described in clause (i) for*
7 *ensuring that—*

8 *(aa) the public is informed*
9 *of, and has a reasonable oppor-*
10 *tunity to comment on, any sig-*
11 *nificant environmental impacts of*
12 *the proposed forest land manage-*
13 *ment activity identified by the In-*
14 *dian tribe; and*

15 *(bb) the Indian tribe pro-*
16 *vides responses to relevant and*
17 *substantive public comments on*
18 *any such impacts before the In-*
19 *dian tribe approves the forest land*
20 *management activity.*

21 *(c) TYPES OF TRANSACTIONS.—*

22 *(1) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the In-*
23 *dian tribe, an Indian trust asset management plan*
24 *may authorize the Indian tribe to carry out a surface*

1 *leasing transaction, a forest land management activi-*
2 *ty, or both.*

3 (2) *SELECTION OF SPECIFIC TRANSACTIONS AND*
4 *ACTIVITIES.—At the discretion of the Indian tribe, the*
5 *Indian tribe may include in the integrated resource*
6 *management plan any 1 or more of the transactions*
7 *and activities authorized to be included in the plan*
8 *under subsection (b).*

9 (d) *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—*

10 (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide*
11 *technical assistance, on request of an Indian tribe, for*
12 *development of a regulatory environmental review*
13 *process required under subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii).*

14 (2) *INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND EDU-*
15 *CATION ASSISTANCE ACT.—The technical assistance to*
16 *be provided by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph*
17 *(1) may be made available through contracts, grants,*
18 *or agreements entered into in accordance with, and*
19 *made available to entities eligible for, contracts,*
20 *grants, or agreements under the Indian Self-Deter-*
21 *mination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.*
22 *450 et seq.).*

23 (e) *FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—Notwith-*
24 *standing subsection (b), if an Indian tribe carries out a*
25 *project or activity funded by a Federal agency, the Indian*

1 tribe shall have the authority to rely on the environmental
2 review process of the applicable Federal agency, rather than
3 any tribal environmental review process under this sub-
4 section.

5 (f) DOCUMENTATION.—If an Indian tribe executes a
6 surface leasing transaction or forest land management ac-
7 tivity pursuant to tribal regulations under paragraph (2),
8 the Indian tribe shall provide to the Secretary—

9 (1) a copy of the surface leasing transaction or
10 forest land management activity documents, includ-
11 ing any amendments to, or renewals of, the applicable
12 transaction; and

13 (2) in the case of tribal regulations, a surface
14 leasing transaction, or forest land management ac-
15 tivities that allow payments to be made directly to the
16 Indian tribe, documentation of the payments that is
17 sufficient to enable the Secretary to discharge the
18 trust responsibility of the United States under para-
19 graph (7).

20 (g) TRUST RESPONSIBILITY.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The United States shall not be
22 liable for losses sustained—

23 (A) by an Indian tribe as a result of the
24 execution of any forest land management activ-

1 ity pursuant to tribal regulations under sub-
2 section (b); or

3 (B) by any party to a lease executed pursu-
4 ant to tribal regulations under subsection (b).

5 (2) **AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.**—Pursuant to
6 the authority of the Secretary to fulfill the trust obli-
7 gation of the United States to Indian tribes under
8 Federal law (including regulations), the Secretary
9 may, on reasonable notice from the applicable Indian
10 tribe and at the discretion of the Secretary, enforce
11 the provisions of, or cancel, any lease executed by the
12 Indian tribe under this section.

13 (h) **COMPLIANCE.**—

14 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—An interested party, after ex-
15 hausting any applicable tribal remedies, may submit
16 to the Secretary a petition, at such time and in such
17 form as the Secretary determines to be appropriate,
18 to review the compliance of an applicable Indian
19 tribe with any tribal regulations approved by the Sec-
20 retary under this subsection.

21 (2) **VIOLATIONS.**—If the Secretary determines
22 under paragraph (1) that a violation of tribal regula-
23 tions has occurred, the Secretary may take any action
24 the Secretary determines to be necessary to remedy
25 the violation, including rescinding the approval of the

1 *tribal regulations and reassuming responsibility for*
2 *the approval of leases of tribal trust land.*

3 (3) *DOCUMENTATION.—If the Secretary deter-*
4 *mines under paragraph (1) that a violation of tribal*
5 *regulations has occurred and a remedy is necessary,*
6 *the Secretary shall—*

7 (A) *make a written determination with re-*
8 *spect to the regulations that have been violated;*

9 (B) *provide to the applicable Indian tribe a*
10 *written notice of the alleged violation, together*
11 *with the written determination; and*

12 (C) *prior to the exercise of any remedy, the*
13 *rescission of the approval of the regulation in-*
14 *volved, or the reassumption of the trust asset*
15 *transaction approval responsibilities, provide to*
16 *the applicable Indian tribe—*

17 (i) *a hearing on the record; and*
18 (ii) *a reasonable opportunity to cure*
19 *the alleged violation.*

20 **SEC. 206. EFFECT OF TITLE.**

21 (a) *LIABILITY.—Subject to section 205 and this sec-*
22 *tion, nothing in this title or an Indian trust asset manage-*
23 *ment plan approved under section 204 shall independently*
24 *diminish, increase, create, or otherwise affect the liability*
25 *of the United States or an Indian tribe participating in*

1 *the Project for any loss resulting from the management of*
2 *an Indian trust asset under an Indian trust asset manage-*
3 *ment plan.*

4 (b) *DEVIATION FROM STANDARD PRACTICES.—The*
5 *United States shall not be liable to any party (including*
6 *any Indian tribe) for any term of, or any loss resulting*
7 *from the terms of, an Indian trust asset management plan*
8 *that provides for management of a trust asset at a less-*
9 *stringent standard than the Secretary would otherwise re-*
10 *quire or adhere to in absence of an Indian trust asset man-*
11 *agement plan.*

12 (c) *EFFECT OF TERMINATION OF PLAN.—Subsection*
13 *(b) applies to losses resulting from a transaction or activity*
14 *described in that subsection even if the Indian trust asset*
15 *management plan is terminated under section 204(d) or re-*
16 *scinded under section 205(h).*

17 (d) *EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—*

18 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sub-*
19 *section (e) and sections 204 and 205, nothing in this*
20 *title amends or otherwise affects the application of*
21 *any treaty, statute, regulation, or Executive order*
22 *that is applicable to Indian trust assets or the man-*
23 *agement or administration of Indian trust assets.*

24 (2) *INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION ACT.—Nothing*
25 *in this title limits or otherwise affects the authority*

1 *of an Indian tribe, including an Indian tribe partici-*
2 *pating in the Project, to enter into and carry out a*
3 *contract, compact, or other agreement under the In-*
4 *dian Self-Determination and Education Assistance*
5 *Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) (including regulations).*

6 *(e) SEPARATE APPROVAL.—An Indian tribe may sub-*
7 *mit to the Secretary tribal regulations described in section*
8 *205(b) governing forest land management activities for re-*
9 *view and approval under this title if the Indian tribe does*
10 *not submit or intend to submit an Indian trust asset man-*
11 *agement plan.*

12 *(f) TRUST RESPONSIBILITY.—Nothing in this title en-*
13 *hances, diminishes, or otherwise affects the trust responsi-*
14 *bility of the United States to Indian tribes or individual*
15 *Indians.*

16 **TITLE III—IMPROVING EFFI-**
17 **CIENCY AND STREAMLINING**
18 **PROCESSES**

19 **SEC. 301. PURPOSE.**

20 *The purpose of this title is to ensure a more efficient*
21 *and streamlined administration of duties of the Secretary*
22 *of the Interior with respect to providing services and pro-*
23 *grams to Indians and Indian tribes, including the manage-*
24 *ment of Indian trust resources.*

1 **SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.**

2 *In this title:*

3 (1) *BIA.*—*The term “BIA” means the Bureau of*
4 *Indian Affairs.*

5 (2) *DEPARTMENT.*—*The term “Department”*
6 *means the Department of the Interior.*

7 (3) *SECRETARY.*—*The term “Secretary” means*
8 *the Secretary of the Interior.*

9 (4) *UNDER SECRETARY.*—*The term “Under Sec-*
10 *retary” means the individual appointed to the posi-*
11 *tion of Under Secretary for Indian Affairs established*
12 *under section 303(a).*

13 **SEC. 303. UNDER SECRETARY FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS.**

14 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION.*—*Notwithstanding*
15 *any other provision of law, the Secretary may establish in*
16 *the Department the position of Under Secretary for Indian*
17 *Affairs, who shall report directly to the Secretary.*

18 (b) *APPOINTMENT.*—

19 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Except as provided in para-*
20 *graph (2), the Under Secretary shall be appointed by*
21 *the President, by and with the advice and consent of*
22 *the Senate.*

23 (2) *EXCEPTION.*—*The individual serving as the*
24 *Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs on the date of*
25 *enactment of this Act may assume the position of*

1 Under Secretary without appointment under para-
2 graph (1), if—

3 (A) that individual was appointed as As-
4 sistant Secretary for Indian Affairs by the Presi-
5 dent, by and with the advice and consent of the
6 Senate; and

7 (B) not later than 180 days after the date
8 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary approves
9 the assumption.

10 (c) DUTIES.—In addition to any other duties directed
11 by the Secretary, the Under Secretary shall—

12 (1) coordinate with the Special Trustee for
13 American Indians to ensure an orderly transition of
14 the functions of the Special Trustee to 1 or more ap-
15 propriate agencies, offices, or bureaus within the De-
16 partment, as determined by the Secretary;

17 (2) to the maximum extent practicable, supervise
18 and coordinate activities and policies of the BIA with
19 activities and policies of—

20 (A) the Bureau of Reclamation;

21 (B) the Bureau of Land Management;

22 (C) the Office of Natural Resources Revenue;

23 (D) the National Park Service; and

24 (E) the United States Fish and Wildlife
25 Service; and

1 (3) provide for regular consultation with Indians
2 and Indian tribes that own interests in trust re-
3 sources and trust fund accounts.

4 (d) PERSONNEL PROVISIONS.—

5 (1) APPOINTMENTS.—The Under Secretary may
6 appoint and fix the compensation of such officers and
7 employees as the Under Secretary determines to be
8 necessary to carry out any function transferred under
9 this section.

10 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Except as otherwise pro-
11 vided by law—

12 (A) any officer or employee described in
13 paragraph (1) shall be appointed in accordance
14 with the civil service laws;

15 (B) the compensation of such an officer or
16 employee shall be fixed in accordance with title
17 5, United States Code; and

18 (C) in appointing or otherwise hiring any
19 employee, the Under Secretary shall give pref-
20 erence to Indians in accordance with section 12
21 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 472).

22 **SEC. 304. OFFICE OF SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN IN-**
23 **DIANS.**

24 (a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Notwithstanding sections
25 302 and 303 of the American Indian Trust Fund Manage-

1 ment Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4042, 4043), not later
2 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
3 retary shall prepare and, after consultation with Indian
4 tribes and appropriate Indian organizations, submit to the
5 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Represent-
6 atives, the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, and
7 the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives and the Senate a report that includes—

9 (1) an identification of all functions, other than
10 the collection, management, and investment of Indian
11 trust funds, that the Office of the Special Trustee per-
12 forms independently or in concert with the BIA or
13 other Federal agencies, specifically those functions
14 that affect or relate to management of nonmonetary
15 trust resources;

16 (2) a description of any functions of the Office
17 of the Special Trustee that will be transitioned to
18 other bureaus or agencies within the Department
19 prior to the termination date of the Office, as de-
20 scribed in paragraph (3), together with the time-
21 frames for those transfers; and

22 (3) a transition plan and timetable for the ter-
23 mination of the Office of the Special Trustee, to occur
24 not later than 2 years after the date of submission of
25 the report, unless the Secretary determines that an or-

1 *derly transition cannot be accomplished during that*
2 *time period, in which case the report shall include—*

3 *(A) a statement of all reasons why the trans-*
4 *sition cannot be effected within that time period;*
5 *and*

6 *(B) an alternative date for completing the*
7 *transition.*

8 (b) *FIDUCIARY TRUST OFFICERS.*—Subject to applica-
9 ble law and regulations, the Secretary, at the request of an
10 Indian tribe or consortia of Indian tribes, shall include fi-
11 duciary trust officers in a contract, compact, or other agree-
12 ment under the Indian Self-Determination and Education
13 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).

14 (c) *EFFECT OF SECTION.*—Nothing in this section or
15 the report under this section—

16 (1) terminates the Office of the Special Trustee;
17 or

18 (2) affects the application of sections 302 and
19 303 of the American Indian Trust Fund Management
20 Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4042, 4043).

21 **SEC. 305. APPRAISALS AND VALUATIONS.**

22 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding section 304, not
23 later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this
24 Act, the Secretary, in consultation with Indian tribes and
25 tribal organizations, shall ensure that appraisals and valua-

1 *actions of Indian trust property are administered by a single*
2 *bureau, agency, or other administrative entity within the*
3 *Department.*

4 (b) *MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS.—Not later than 1 year*
5 *after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall*
6 *establish and publish in the Federal Register minimum*
7 *qualifications for individuals to prepare appraisals and*
8 *valuations of Indian trust property.*

9 (c) *SECRETARIAL APPROVAL.—In any case in which*
10 *an Indian tribe or Indian beneficiary submits to the Sec-*
11 *retary an appraisal or valuation that satisfies the min-*
12 *imum qualifications described in subsection (b), and that*
13 *submission acknowledges the intent of the Indian tribe or*
14 *beneficiary to have the appraisal or valuation considered*
15 *under this section, the appraisal or valuation—*

16 (1) *shall not require any additional review or*
17 *approval by the Secretary; and*
18 (2) *shall be considered to be final for purposes of*
19 *effectuating the transaction for which the appraisal or*
20 *valuation is required.*

21 **SEC. 306. COST SAVINGS.**

22 (a) *IN GENERAL.—For any program, function, service,*
23 *or activity (or any portion of a program, function, service,*
24 *or activity) of the Office of the Special Trustee that will*
25 *not be operated or carried out after the date of enactment*

1 of this Act as a result of a transfer of functions and per-
2 sonnel, the Secretary shall—

3 (1) identify the amounts that the Secretary
4 would otherwise have expended to operate or carry
5 out each program, function, service, and activity (or
6 portion of a program, function, service, or activity);
7 and

8 (2) provide to the tribal representatives of the
9 Tribal/Interior Budget Council or the representative
10 of any other appropriate entity that advises the Sec-
11 retary on Indian program budget or funding issues a
12 list that describes—

13 (A) the programs, functions, services, and
14 activities (or any portion of a program, func-
15 tion, service, or activity) identified under para-
16 graph (1); and

17 (B) the amounts associated with each pro-
18 gram, function, service, and activity (or portion
19 of a program, function, service, or activity).

20 (b) TRIBAL RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 90
21 days after the date of receipt of a list under subsection
22 (a)(2), the tribal representatives of the Tribal/Interior
23 Budget Council and the representatives of any other appro-
24 priate entities that advise the Secretary on Indian program
25 budget or funding issues may provide recommendations re-

1 *garding how any amounts or cost savings should be reallo-*
2 *cated, incorporated into future budget requests, or appro-*
3 *priated to—*

4 (1) *the Secretary;*

5 (2) *the Office of Management and Budget;*

6 (3) *the Committee on Appropriations of the*
7 *House of Representatives;*

8 (4) *the Committee on Natural Resources of the*
9 *House of Representatives;*

10 (5) *the Committee on Appropriations of the Sen-*
11 *ate; and*

12 (6) *the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Sen-*
13 *ate.*

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[Report No. 114-207]

A BILL

To provide for Indian trust asset management reform, and for other purposes.

FEBRUARY 8, 2016

Reported with an amendment